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Recommended Citation

Copublished by Britain’s Society of Genealogists, this second edition is 200 pages longer than the original (CH, Sep’98, 36-0004). Herber has kept the same format, beginning with chapters that cover the basics of British family history, such as how and where to begin, how to organize research materials, and common problems one can expect to encounter. He describes in great detail the different records available (e.g., birth, marriage, death, census, cemeteries, newspapers, courts, and military), as well as where to access them and the procedures for searching them, frequently providing examples from his own family research to illustrate his points. Although the author has added an appendix listing 184 Web sites, he does not go into great detail about Internet-based research, often referring the reader to popular genealogical periodicals. This reviewer is concerned with the binding, since very thick paperbacks (nearly 900 pages) often have broken spines after frequent photocopying. This volume will benefit advanced genealogical researchers and social historians; giving this book to a beginner would be like giving the OED to someone who needs a basic definition. Beginners would be better off with *In Search of Your British & Irish Roots*, by Angus Baxter (4th ed., 1999), which one hopes will be updated to reflect the 2003 creation of Britain’s National Archives. Summing Up: Recommended. Libraries with large genealogical and British history collections serving upper-level undergraduates and above, and general readers.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*